

TOKEN TOPICS

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

January, 1981
Issue #89

John M. Barnes
Associate Editor

JANUARY MEETING: As is traditional, the January meeting of your association will be held at the home of the world's busiest tour guide, Bob Ritterband. Active trading on the bourse will begin on the bourse at about 1:30 PM on Sunday, January 18, 1981 and continue well into the afternoon. Bob lives at 6576 Colgate Avenue, Los Angeles, in the West Wilshire district. For the benefit of those who haven't been there before: Colgate runs parallel to Wilshire Blvd., but about half a mile north. Bob's home is centered approximately half way between Fairfax Avenue and La Cienaga Blvd. If you get lost, don't hesitate to deluge Bob with phone calls at: 938-4504. We hope that as many members and guests as possible will be able to attend, because Bob's work schedule doesn't permit him to see us very often.

NOVEMBER MINUTES: Our last meeting of 1980 was held at the home of Elaine Willahan, who, as usual, supplied that luscious chocolate desert. Sometime, upon the request of the association members, I shall write a proper dissertation on this treat, but in the meantime, back to the minutes. Elections were held, and therefore considerable time was spent trying to find someone to be president and write Token Topics (apparently the latter chore keeps scores of potential candidates out of the race). Finally, after some minutes of deafening silence, an agreement was reached whereby Steve Alpert will remain president and editor, but will write only every other issue of Token Topics. As part of the deal, John Barnes agreed to become the vice president (and also Numismatic Association of Southern California club delegate), and also write the other three issues as associate editor. Our other officers remain unchanged from 1980: Elaine Willahan is secretary; Andy Crusen is treasurer. The past president board of directors position remains unfilled; the last incumbent is now your vice president!

The meeting was of a good size; members attending were: John and Virginia Barnes, Elaine Willahan, Andy Crusen, Steve Alpert, Russ Anderson, Larry Ellman, Bob Kubach, Bob Null, Chuck Short, and Ken and Eleanor Smith. We enjoyed having Shirlee Anderson as guest. As usual, John Barnes was auctioneer for our token sale.

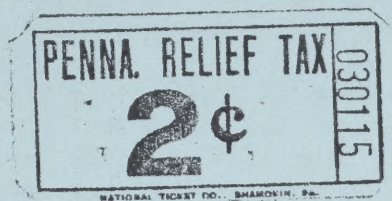
DUES ARE DUE: I want to be sure to insert this little message on the front side of this issue, in the event that someone who hasn't paid falls asleep without reaching the back side and this message. You can help by immediately sending your 1981 dues in the very modest amount of \$2.00 to secretary Elaine Willahan, 516 W. 99th St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90044. If you like tokens and the interesting people who collect them, you can't find a better bargain.

LOS ANGELES BICENTENNIAL: There is currently circulating an attractive set of six "Birthday Dollars", real tokens just the size of the old Ike dollars (and about the same composition, too) which state on their reverses that they are valid at participating enterprises through September 4, 1981. The six obverses commemorate the very real beauties of the present-day city: The End of the Rainbow, Year-Round Sports Paradise, In Conquest of Space, City of Opportunity, Entertainment Capital of the World, and A City On the Move (The last depicting a HORSECAR!). If you don't already own this set, you should. The total cost is about nine dollars; details may be obtained from the LA 200 Committee, P. O. Box 1981, Paramount, Cal. 90723.

LOS ANGELES BICENTENNIAL: Does anyone know of any other numismatic items made to commemorate the Bicentennial? If so, please let the editors know and we will comment further on the subject.

THE SAMBO'S REPORT: Several months ago I received in trade two of the Sambo's token types that have no place names on them. Since a cup of coffee at Sambo's is now forty cents plus tax, I felt I could get my money's worth by redeeming them, and also determine if they were still "good as gold". I took the first one to Sambo's, Union Avenue, Bakersfield, where the cashier looked surprised, ran for the manager, and returned with the information that if Sambo's had issued it, it must be good. The second was presented in exchange for my morning coffee one day last month at Sambo's, Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica. This time, the manager was at the cash register and immediately informed me that the token was not valid but that he would accept it anyhow. I asked for proof that the token wasn't valid, and he went to his back room, then emerged with a copy of Sambo's Interoffice memo of June 4, 1980. In this document I read that the tokens (among a number of other promotional items formerly issued by the corporation) will no longer be honored. I wish I could have had a copy, but considered that such a request would probably not be appreciated. So, all of you Sambo's token devotees out there: Weep, everything in your collection is obsolete. I suppose that some day there will be a Sambo's catalog-I hope it will give some idea of quantities coined. People who collect California merchants' tokens should never sneer at these items because they are "wooden nickels".... in some instances a Sambo's token is the only one to represent a locality. One example is the one issued for the branch in dismal City of Commerce, located on the east side of the City of Los Angeles.

NEWLY DISCOVERED TAX ITEM: Member Virginia Barnes, while on her eternal search for revenue stamps came up with a real goodie in the esoteric field of United States Sales Tax items. As may be seen from the illustration below, it is printed on an off-white theater ticket stock by the National Ticket Co., Shamokin, Pa. The reverse is blank. Pfefferkorn and Schimmel list nothing that remotely resembles this piece. It may be deduced from the serial number that a large number were issued, but then, people like to throw away old theater tickets-a possible reason why they haven't survived. Note also that this is a relief item...possibly linking it to the depression era. If readers know anything about it, please don't hesitate to write: P. O. Box 5152, Sherman Oaks, Cal. 91413.



All printing on
ticket is black.

NEW MEMBERS: We are pleased to welcome the following new members to CATC:
Harriet Carter 2232 North Kays Ave., South San Gabriel, Cal. 91770
Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, 6922 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 600, Hollywood, Cal. 90028
Russ Anderson (Collector of gaming tokens), Box 1239, Placentia, Cal. 92670

FINAL WORD: Your Associate Editor likes a captive audience-you! But, please always remember that you can talk back and have your letters printed. How about submitting articles, rebuttals, letters, clarifications, photos, discoveries, or even criticisms of the Associate Editor? We'd love to hear from you.

TOKEN TOPICS

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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

MARCH, 1981
Issue No. 90

Stephen P. Alpert
Editor

MARCH MEETING: Don't miss this one! Our March meeting will be on Sunday, March 15, from about 1 to 5 pm, at the home of Elaine Willahan, 516 W. 99th St., Los Angeles 90044, near Century & Figueroa, just off the Harbor Freeway. Those who regularly or irregularly attend our meetings know where it is, so be sure to attend or you'll miss out on a super auction featuring exnumia and related material donated to CATC by Norman Sherman. The donated material includes: 2 big lots of personal tokens; a large assortment of miscellaneous tokens; token catalogues (Atwood, Parking, Car Wash, Idaho, etc); and a coin and stamp camera unit. We greatly appreciate the generous donation, which should raise some needed funds for our not-so-far-in-the-future-soon-to-be-in-trouble-rapidly-diminishing club treasury.

We hope the above offering will encourage a large attendance, which in itself makes for a great meeting. Let's try to revive the old days when 20 to 25 or more people attended each meeting. Token collectors are often super enthusiastic to fanatical about our hobby, so show it by attending our meetings when you can! That's the main purpose of the CATC - for collectors to get together for lively and friendly exchanges of tokens and knowledge.

LAST CALL FOR 1981 DUES ! An alarming 19 members have not yet paid their CATC dues for 1981, still a bargain \$2.00. This represents about $\frac{1}{4}$ of our membership, so please reconsider remaining a member or send in your dues now if you just forgot so far. This is the last issue of Token Topics you'll receive unless your 1981 dues are paid.

Fortunately we have some new members to welcome: Darrell W. Wilson of Eureka, Calif.; Wm. Helton of San Diego; George Hosek of Omaha; Scott Schreiner, Box 1421, Sierra Vista, Ariz. 85635 who wants to collect Ariz. military tokens; and Dennis L. Scott of Clovis, Calif. Later this year we'll print up a new CATC membership list with collecting interests. So let secretary Elaine Willahan know your current interests if they've changed; also advise if you do not want your address published. The list goes to CATC members only.

JANUARY MEETING REPORT: 14 members gathered at the home of Bob Ritterband for what was our association's 143rd meeting (July 1982 will be CATC's 25th anniversary). Very few other token groups have such a long history. The early founding months of CATC was recalled and discussed at the meeting, and secretary Elaine Willahan read the minutes of the first few meetings out of our archives. The usual hectic and enthusiastic token activity, and an exnumia auction, was enjoyed by those present: Steve Alpert, John and Virginia Barnes, Andy Crusen, James Garner, Bill Massey, Bob Null, Bob Ritterband, Frank Roselinski, Wally Shidler, Ken and Eleanor Smith, Alan Weinberg, Elaine Willahan, and Molly Ritterband. Bill Massey showed us a large writeup of his Quincy, Ill. token collection that was prominently published in a Quincy newspaper. Bill is a specialist in all Quincy exnumia.

I want to thank John Barnes for assuming co-editorship of Token Topics. He will write and publish every other issue. So you'll now get a more varied publication. The editors' addresses are: Steve Alpert, Box 66331, L.A., CA 90066; John Barnes, Box 5152, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403. Please send us news or items to publish!

B A C K If you haven't been a member of CATC for a long time, you can
I S S U E S now fill in some of those missing back issues of TOKEN TOPICS
 CATC will be selling original back issues (not reprints) for
20¢ each, plus postage (15¢ per 4 issues or fraction thereof). Write to our
secretary Elaine Willahan (address on first page and envelope) for list of
those available.

Notice to all past CATC Presidents: check if you have leftover copies of
the token topics you published. If so, send them to Elaine or bring them to
the March meeting.

The back issues collectively contain a great deal of interesting information.
We are donating available back issues to the TAMS Library.

HIGH-FLYING Tokens can really get around.
TOKENS In addition to being used on

ground level, their usual
habitat, tokens have also been used under-
ground (subway tokens and mining tool and
work checks). Now they are going airborne.
The accompanying newspaper clipping from
the Los Angeles Times of Feb. 24, 1981,
announces that tokens will be used to
operate slot machines aboard a Singapore
Airlines 747 during flights to and from
Los Angeles, this summer. Hopefully the
tokens will not be stock ones used in the
orient or stock tokens used in U.S. pin-
ball arcades.

Now that tokens are invading the air,
that leaves underwater and outer space as
realms where tokens haven't been used yet
(or have they?).

They Have Tokens

By STEVE HARVEY, *Times Staff Writer*

Hijackers are still unwelcome, of course, but
Singapore Airlines will soon be carrying one-
armed bandits on some flights to and from Los
Angeles.

One of the airline's 747 is going to be outfitted
with eight slot machines for a two-month exper-
iment beginning June 1.

David Flexer of Mark X International,
developer of the "minimal-noise" machines,
said that special attendants—"attractive young
ladies"—will be aboard to sell tokens to (adult)
passengers.

"We're trying to relieve the tediousness of
long flights," Flexer said.

Unlike the piano-bars-in-the-sky offered by
some carriers a few years ago, the Singapore
slots won't be limited to first-class passengers.
Economy-class dwellers also will have an op-
portunity to lose money.

MORE ON PLAY MONEY: In addition to the play money coins listed in issues 87
and 88, I have found the following unlisted ones:

Uncle Sam Series:

1¢: new type 1A - Obv.: Uncle Sam (date) / 1 / Play Cent; Rev.: Play Money /
(flag) / Falsa Pecunia. Copper, 16mm (1949-W)

1¢, Type 3, add date 1950-W.

25¢: new type 3 - as Type 2, but 22mm (1959-W)

Tex-A-Toy Series: (missing 1¢ coin from issue 88)

1¢ coin: TEX-A-TOY 1954 / (4-leaf clover) / TOY PENNY

C 17 Sd Toy Money / (star) 1 (star) / One Cent

I (Steve Alpert) will be at the National Collectibles Exposition in Chicago Mar.
28, and I hope to meet some of the CATC members who live in that part of the
country. Other southern California CATC members who will be attending are
Larry Elman and Bill Massey, and possibly others.

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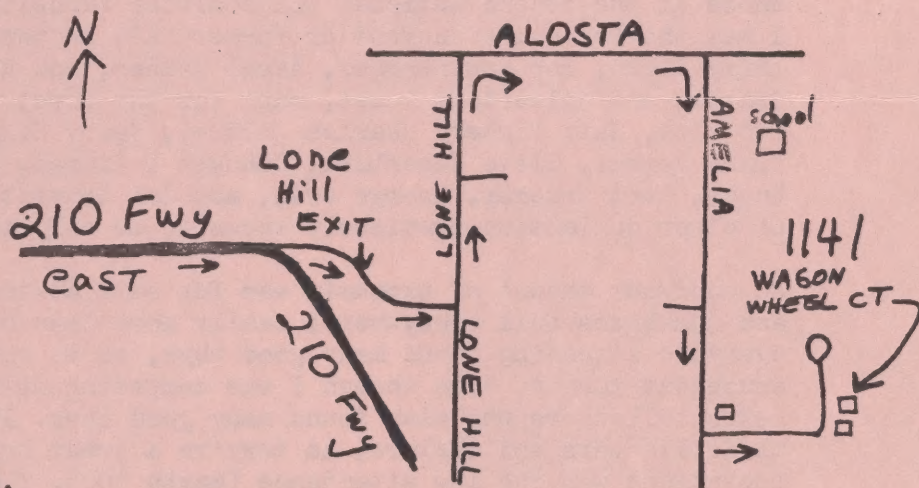
May, 1981

Issue #91

John M. Barnes

Associate Editor

MAY MEETING: Our association will meet this month at the home of Bill Massey on Sunday, May 17 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Last September Editor Steve Alpert drew a great map which I am reproducing below because my artistic ability has never properly developed. Directions: Take the 210 Freeway east to the Lone Hill exit (in San Dimas). Turn left on Lone Hill, proceed to Alosta; turn right and go one light to Amelia; turn right again and continue about two blocks to where you will turn left on Wagon Wheel Court. One short block and you are at Bill's address: 1141 Wagon Wheel Court. I don't know what provision to make for people who get lost, because Steve Alpert reported problems reaching Bill on the phone recently. Nevertheless, it is hoped that we will have a good turnout for trading, auction, and refreshments.



MARCH MINUTES: Our March meeting was outstanding as the setting of the long-awaited auction of the Norman E. Sherman collection (Part II). Since Norm sold the first part of his extensive California and Horse Car specialized collection several years ago, I had not been aware that there was more to come. Even better for CATC, the proceeds from the action were donated to the Association by Norm. We had a substantial number of really business-like bidders present, and all items brought prices ranging from about catalog to very high. The items represented were diverse, and included California merchants, transportation tokens, coal tokens, AVA souvenir issues in quantity, and even a New Mexico Orchid Society 1966 souvenir tile, which wound up in the possession of auctioneer John Barnes. Total proceeds from the auction came to \$144.50—a record for association auctions. A big, big Thank-you to Norm for continuing to think of CATC and lending financial support to the group at a time when it is most needed.

Present at the March 15 meeting were members Steve Alpert, John Barnes, Harriet Carter, Robert Carter, Andy Crusen, Larry Elman, Robert Kubach, Bill Massey, Edrick Miller, Bob Null, F. A. Rohrman, Wally Shidler, Eleanor Smith, Ken Smith, Paul Thompson, and Elaine Willahan. We were pleased to have as guests Joyceanne and Larry Edell. And yes, Elaine Willahan—at whose home we met—made that great chocolate dessert again. Maybe your editor can make an arrangement for her to slide a piece in an envelope addressed to me each week!

NEW MEMBER: Elaine advises me that we have welcomed into membership Tracy Tudor, P. O. Box 24333, Speedway, IN 46224. I wasn't advised of Tracy's collecting specialty, but am sure we will find out when our revised specialty list is reissued this year.

NEW MEMBER: Secretary Elaine Willahan has informed me that Larry Edell, our guest at the last meeting, has become a member. Larry resides at 1307-B South Amapola Ave., Torrance, Cal. 90501. He collects T.T. and railroad items.

THE COLLECTING (SPECIALTY) LIST: Elaine wanted me to inform all of you that if you don't want your address shown in the list please let her know. Also, if your collecting habits have changed since this time last year you may inform her.

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL COLLECTIBLES EXPOSITION: President Steve Alpert attended this event in Chicago on March 28-29 of this year, and was so kind as to submit the following account.

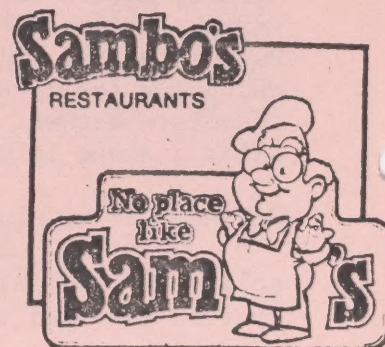
Most of the exonumia dealers and many prominent token collectors were in attendance at the second National Collectibles Exposition recently held in Chicago. I met the following current or former CATC members at the show: Bill Massey, Larry Elman, Bob Rosenberger, Aksel Hansen, and Rich Hartzog. Among the other dealers and collectors I met, many for the first time, were Paul Cunningham, Tom Hitt, Gary Pipher, Charles Kirtley, Jerry Schaeper, David Schenkman, Duane Feisel, Steve Tanenbaum, Johnson & Jensen, Richard McFerran, Arlie Slaugh, Kurt Krueger, George Owen, and Joe Schmidt. In addition, I met dozens of other collectors previously known to me only through the mails.

An enormous amount of exonumia was for sale at the show-boxes, binders, cases and junkboxes full everywhere; really more than one could carefully check. Thus everyone attending found many good buys, so it seemed. I obtained dozens of amusement tokens, even though I was competing with several other amusement token collectors who also found many good ones. It was a pleasure meeting all the collectors and dealers, as they're a great group of people. My only disappointment was the low attendance (maybe 500). I was expecting about three or four times that many, considering all the national and local advertising for the Exposition.

Among the most popular items at the show were advertising mirrors, which drew much interest and business. Very few rare valuable old trade, territorial, or sutler tokens were to be found at the show, surprisingly. Auctions by Paul Cunningham and Johnson & Jensen were conducted at the Exposition, but I was unable to attend.

BACK ISSUES SALE: If any of you are wanting to fill in your back issue file of "Token Topics", CATC Secretary Elaine Willahan has a number on hand. Her address is 516 West 99th St., Los Angeles, Cal. 90044; she asks that requests for back issues be accompanied by payment of 20¢ per issue plus 18¢ postage for each four copies or fraction ordered. She has the following on hand (issue month given in numerals to save space): 1966, 9; 1967, 9; 1968, 3,5,7; 1969, 1,3,5,9,11; 1970, 1,3,5,7,9,11; 1971, 1,4,5,6,7,11; 1972, 1,3,5,7,11; 1973, 1,3,5,7,9,11,12; 1974, 3,5,7,9,11; 1975, 1,3; 1976, 1,3,5,7; 1977, 3,5; 1978, 1,3,5,7,9,11; 1979, 1,3,5,9,11; 1980, 1,3,5,7,9,11; 1981, 3.

SAMBO'S (AGAIN): More bad news for collectors of Sambo's tokens! The Los Angeles Times in its issue of March 11, 1981 carried a story about the firm's intention to try a new name (Sam's) at select branches in New England, the idea being to test public acceptance of the new name. The new logo is shown at right contrasted with the old. If the new name flies, it will be given to 114 branches in the northeast U. S. Is this the beginning of the end of Sambo's?



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JULY, 1981
Issue No. 92

Stephen P. Alpert
Editor

JULY MEETING: Our Secretary, Elaine Willahan, will be hosting our meeting on Sunday, July 19th, from 1 to 5 pm, at her home at 516 West 99th St. in Los Angeles. It's one short block north of Century Blvd at Figueroa, near the Harbor Freeway. Let's have a good turnout for this meeting, and bring some goodies to sell in the auction. If anyone wants to give a short informal talk or presentation on something they collect or are knowledgeable about, surprise us and come prepared. We haven't had any of these 5 to 20 minute talks/question-answer periods in almost two years, so it would be nice to get volunteers for this or future meetings.

Elaine reports another new CATC member to welcome: Henry Clifford of Los Angeles.

MAY MEETING REPORT Our May meeting was hosted by Bill Massey at his home in San Dimas. In attendance were members Steve Alpert, John and Virginia Barnes, Robert and Harriet Carter, Andy Crusen, Larry Elman, George Fuld, Jim Garner, Robert Kubach, Bill Massey, Bob Null, Fritz Rohrman, Alan Weinberg and Elaine Willahan (15 members total). There was the usual active trading and dealing, and exonomia auction, with lots of interesting material changing hands or being shown around. It was good to have prominent exonomia authority George Fuld attend the meeting. He recently moved out west to join the staff of Bowers And Ruddy Galleries, and is now in charge of their exonomia department.

Just as this meeting was slowing down at about 4pm in the afternoon, J.L. Hargett, visiting California from Oklahoma, arrived with a big suitcase and boxes full of exonomia. This really perked up the activity as those still there had a fun time pouring over all his interesting material and negotiating trades.

MAVERICK MONEY One interesting piece in my small collection of exonomia of TV shows is the illustrated Maverick

Money coin, made of a grayish white metal. I find extremely interesting the way James Garner's full-face bust is produced on the token. The entire bust is raised the same distance, with tiny dots of varying size and density forming the details, just like a screened photograph transferred onto a metal block for printing. The result on the token is an image just like a photograph (when viewed at the right angle) of James Garner, with subtle details and shading. This obviously doesn't show on the rubbing reproduced here; if it reproduces well you should be able to see some of Garner's face. I've never seen this technique used on any other exonomia, which is surprising, as it's quite impressive.

The reverse, picturing Jack Kelly, uses a different technique - solid raised areas, contrasted against field-level areas; this comes across well in the rubbing.

The Maverick TV show aired from Sept. 1957 through July 1962, on Sundays on ABC. It reportedly is being revived in the near future. I do not know in what connection the above token was issued.



POSTAL THEFT I (Steve Alpert) recently had an unusual experience 3 months ago. Exactly one week after I mailed out the last bunch of packages from my 5th mail bid sale, I attended the Wed. morning Roadium Swap Meet in Gardena, looking for tokens, etc. Approaching one dealer, I noticed from a distance a token in his case. Upon close look, it was a rare Denver merchant token, a rarity 10, in fact the same specimen that was just in my auction (on consignment) and which I had just mailed to the successful bidder. It was even with the 2x2 envelope with the lot number written on it! The seller was a Negro man, about 30, who sets up regularly at that swap meet. It seemed that the token was stolen from the mails, but I couldn't be certain as I didn't remember who I sent it to, and I had no proof with me; so I didn't say anything. When I got home I checked who I mailed it to, and called the party in Colorado to see if he had received it - he hadn't. So next day I called the postal inspectors, but was told by the phone receptionist that nothing could be done until insurance claim form was filed and they received it week(s) later. As that sounded ridiculous, I checked with the Supervisor of my postal station, who didn't disagree. Thus I called the Gardena police dept., so at least the token could be recovered if there the next Wednesday. After telling a detective the whole story, which he found astonishing, he told me he didn't have jurisdiction at the Roadium. So I had to repeat the whole thing to a Torrance detective, who agreed to come if the guy and token were there next week.

Meanwhile, I had mentioned the incident to CATC member Alan Weinberg - who was shocked by the postal inspectors' lack of interest. He called an inspector and gave me his name and number. The next Wednesday, the guy and tokens (now 3 of the stolen tokens were on display) were there so I phoned the inspector at Worldway who called an inspector at Terminal Annex and both arrived 40 minutes later. Following a suggestion by CATC member Larry Elman, I first asked the guy if he had any other tokens and medals; sure enough he pulled out 6 more from a bag under his table - all ones I had mailed, in the envelopes with lots numbers on them. I then went over to the waiting inspectors with this information. They then confiscated the tokens and questioned the guy for about 20 minutes. He said that he bought them from someone (name unknown) at a disco club, who didn't have enough money to join the club but who had some tokens to sell. The inspectors held on to the tokens (as evidence) and told me they will investigate the case.

Later that day, in checking the lot numbers of the recovered items, I discovered that one lot was from a different package, mailed to Illinois, on the same day the Colorado package was mailed. I notified the postal inspector of this. Probably someone working in my postal station stole the two packages. The items recovered at the swap meet represented about two-thirds of the contents of the two packages. The following day I filed two insurance claims for the unrecovered lots.

Fortunately, none of the other 30 or so packages I mailed that same day were stolen, as all were received by the addressees.

There's no dramatic conclusion to this story. About 10 weeks later the postal inspector returned the tokens to me. He said he had made no progress in the case, which was not yet closed. He said he checked out the guy who had the stolen tokens and interviewed him again but got no further useful information; he also visited my postal station. There were still some things he had to check out, but he felt there was little chance of discovering who stole the packages.

EXONUMIA SHOW Don't forget the all-day token and medal show on August 16, sponsored by the Calif. Exonumist Society, at the Holiday Inn in Fullerton. There's free parking, just 50¢ admission; hours are 10-5. All CATC members in southern California should attend, this being the only regular exonumia show in our area. See you there.

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September, 1981

Issue #93

John M. Barnes

Associate Editor

SEPTEMBER MEETING: One again, our secretary Elaine Willahan has consented to have the September 20 CATC meeting at her home. That's Sunday, of course, and activities begin at about 1:00 PM. The address is 516 West 99th Street, Los Angeles, one short block north of Century Blvd. at Figueroa. Our auctions seem to be high points of our meetings, so be sure to bring material which will enrich both your pocketbook and CATC for sale in September.

NEW MEMBER: Elaine advises that we are welcoming Ed Saunders, 5228 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, Oregon 97215.

JULY MINUTES: The July CATC meeting was held at the home of secretary Elaine Willahan with an attendance of twenty persons. Members present were Steve Alpert, Russ Anderson, Andy Crusen, Larry Edell, Jim Garner, Bob Kubach, Bob Null, Fritz Rohrman, Wally Shidler, Chuck Short, Ken Smith, Eleanor Smith, and Elaine Willahan. Three new attendees joined CATC at the meeting: Robert Kelley (visiting California from Mason, Ohio; collector of transportation tokens and prominent AVA member); Bill Kirk of Los Angeles (collector of transportation tokens and Civil War Tokens); and Shelby Wagner of Diamond Bar, California (collector of Civil War Tokens). In addition the following guests were present: Shirlee Anderson, Joyceanne Edell, Paul Schneider (son-in-law of Robert Kelley), and Todd Wagner (son of Shelby Wagner). Trading activity was off for lack of material on hand at the meeting. Steve Alpert took over for absent auctioneer John Barnes and sold twelve lots which yielded about \$4.00 to the CATC treasury. Elaine Willahan gave a short presentation on one of her favorite collecting areas: non-sports trading cards (of TV shows, movie stars, etc.) She showed one huge album of such cards, this being one small part of her gigantic collection

NEW MEMBER: Steve Alpert has informed me of the new membership of Robert Doyle, P. O. Box 202, Merrifield, Va. 22116. Mr. Doyle wishes to correspond and trade with CATC members who collect telephone tokens.

BEST WISHES: To Frank Roselinsky, who recently has been ill. Get well soon, Frank, and come see us all soon.

AVA CONVENTION REPORT: Bob Ritterband has authored an account of this event which is presented below:

The 31st annual convention of the American Vecturist Association was held the weekend of August 7-9, at Park City, Utah, a ski resort about 30 miles southeast of Salt Lake City. Attending from Los Angeles via Amtrak were Elaine Willahan and Andrew Crusen, along with past AVA president Robert Ritterband and wife Molly, holidaying by air.

In spite of current air travel problems, it was reported that 90 AVA members and family guests had registered. And for some strange reason there wasn't a single skier in sight, so all had plenty of room to roam in this now-quiet hillside area. As expected, the vecturist members of ULATCO proved to be superb hosts, with

special emphasis on their continuous chauffeuring between Salt Lake City and the somewhat remote conclave location.

Aside from non-stop swapping and dealing in transportation tokens, a major feature of the meet was an auction of over 200 lots. Not having bid on any material, this reporter cannot cite details, except to say there were many satisfactory smiles seen wandering around after auctioneer Joel Reznick dropped his hammer for the last lot. Another happy event was a three-hour excursion ride/dinner on the nearby Wasatch Mountain Railway, popularly called the "Heber Creeper". Departing from Heber City, the tracks follow the western shoreline of Deer Creek Reservoir for seven or eight miles and beyond. All of the many passengers on board this steam restoration were pleased, but in spite of that biological need for food, more daytime hours for more sightseeing would have been even better.

A special tour token was issued for the ride, reading "Good For One Round Trip on the Heber Creeper/ Saturday, August 8, 1981". The reverse has the AVA emblem, encircled by "31st Annual Convention, August 7-9, 1981, Park City, Utah". The piece is made of copper, measuring 29-mm in diameter. Nicolosi's New Issues Service will be mailing these to subscribers, or they can be ordered direct from Reznick in Chicago. Another item widely distributed was Ritterband's latest Personal Token, saluting the first one-third century of AVA history, 1948-1981. The item is of 41-mm dark blue plastic, with gold lettering, and can be had gratis by any collector sending his an SAE, plus maybe a personal of his own.

During AVA business sessions, officers counted election-by-mail ballots for the coming two year term, and announced James Hemphill as president (with 68% of the votes) and Paul Cunningham as vice-president (60%). It was stated that the 1982 gathering, originally considered for New Orleans, would be held at Boston instead. An announcement of San Diego for August, 1984, immediately ahead of the American Numismatic Association convention there, brought forth many comments of strong approval.

THE ASSOCIATE EDITOR ON TOUR: The one and only reason I would ever miss a CATC meeting is travel, and it is certain that I'm collecting the whole time! Member Virginia Barnes planned a two-month special this time around, beginning and ending in New York City. To begin, I had a slightly productive visit to all the coin stores in Huntington (L. I.), but the interesting part didn't begin until we boarded the Queen Elizabeth 2. Her casino is a London-based concession owned by the Sportsman Club of London, and uses for the dollar slot machines a specially designed token: The Sportsman/ London (Torch within maze design)//Queen Elizabeth 2 (Bow-on view of ship). A most attractive item, this appears at first sight to be only a medal, for it bears no mark of value. The edge, however, is reeded; the token is the same size as our Ike dollar. Composition appears to be copper nickel.

Virginia's schedule moved me right along the sightseeing circuit, so I didn't always have all the hunting time I wanted. However, France-Paris-was great. All one has to do to find tokens is to go to the Quai in front of the old Monnai (Mint) and then hope one or more of the many stalls strung along the river is open. They do sell lots of junk from battered junk boxes and albums at advanced prices, so the buyer must be on his toes. I was paying an average of two francs each item (about 35¢ U.S.), so I took home quite a group of odd things. No transportation tokens, but plenty of "What's THAT?!" type material. The big dealers across the Seine on the Right Bank handle absolutely nothing to do with tokens, other than old French and Canadian silver Jetons. When I made inquiry, I was referred to the Rue Richlieu district to obtain odd-ball things, but didn't have time to complete the circuit. Next time!!!! It is worthy of note that I obtained a Yosemite Valley Railroad \$1000 bond a few doors from our hotel for the equivalent of \$15.00....a beautiful thing it is. More about our travels in a succeeding issue!

TOKEN TOPICS

of the
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

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Stephen P. Alpert
Editor

DUES NOTICE: Good News! - dues for your membership in CATC for 1982 have not been raised! It's still a very reasonable \$2.00 per year, so please send in your 1982 dues now, to secretary Elaine Willahan, 516 W.99th St., L.A., CA 90044. or pay at this month's meeting. (Also let us know your updated collecting interests for the new membership roster of next spring). Despite two postal increases this year, we are able to hold the dues at \$2 thanks to the income from our auctions and the generous donations of exonomia from several members, which were auctioned with proceeds to CATC. This has offset our shrinking bank account.

So we hope the dues freeze will bring us near 100% renewals in membership. And all donations of your unwanted tokens, medals, & collectibles will be appreciated - send to Elaine; we will refund your postage if you wish. They'll serve two purposes - to help us financially, and liven up the meetings at auction time.

NOVEMBER MEETING: Elaine Willahan will host our November 15 meeting, Sunday, from 1:00 pm to dusk, at her home at 516 W.99th St. in Los Angeles, just off the Harbor Fwy, at Century & Figueroa. There should be a good turnout, so join in and bring all your trading material and items for the auction.

SEPTEMBER MEETING REPORT: 17 members attended the September meeting which was hosted by Elaine Willahan. Present were: Steve Alpert, John Barnes, Virginia Barnes, Andy Crusen, Larry Edell, Jim Garner, Bill Kirk, Bob Null, Bob Ritterband, Fritz Rohrman, Glenn Schinke (new member), Wally Shidler, Chuck Short, Eleanor Smith, Ken Smith, Shelby Wagner, and Elaine Willahan; plus guests Todd and Kim Wagner.

There was much trading activity and token talk. The interesting items in the auction inspired much competitive bidding; about \$4.00 was raised for the club from the auction.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES: One page 2 of this issue of Token Topics, John Barnes continues his tale of token hunting adventures on his trip abroad this year. If anyone else has interesting stories of their token searching efforts at home or abroad, which they would like to share with the membership, write it up and send it in. Any short articles on exonomia are welcomed by the editors of Token Topics. John also corrects an error in the last issue of Token Topics: the AVA convention in San Diego will be in 1983, not 1984,.

Bill Massey reports a token being used at the Scholl Canyon Golf and Tennis club in Glendale (3800 E. Glenoaks) for a golf ball dispensing machine. It is a 23 mm brass slug, with "SCG&T/GLENDALE" circular, in black enamel, on one side only. They are available at the pro shop there for 75¢ and will release about 30 practice golf balls from the machine. Vandalism in the area caused them to switch from coins to tokens. But people are slugging the machine with amusement arcade tokens of the same size, which cost only 25¢ at the arcades.

By the way, keep searching your area for new amusement arcade tokens. There must be dozens of new ones coming out each month, from all over the country, but they are slow in being reported to me for cataloguing. Van Brook of Lexington is minting them in droves. We are in the midst of a new huge series of tokens, probably the biggest event in modern exonomia since the food stamp tokens. Incidentally, the Amusement Token Collectors Assn. (ATCA) holds its meetings concurrently at the CATC meetings. Dues \$5 per year; join and receive THE JACKPOT published bimonthly.

THE ASSOCIATE EDITOR ON TOUR: In the September issue I had left you with our stay
BY JOHN M. BARNES in the beautiful city of Paris, where I purchased

the Yosemite Short Line Railway Company bond. I erred in describing the denomination: it is really \$100.00, a "baby bond". It has a gold clause, ancient locomotive vignette, and French revenue stamp imprints... a very sexy item, indeed. A 1905 issue, its last coupon was paid in September, 1931. With regrets, we left Paris for Geneva, a lovely city where we stayed all too short a time...not enough time to search for things. Our next stop, however, was even better: Florence, Italy. I hit a bonanza of junk box things, most of which I had never heard of before. I also found that most of the junk items were priced for the tourist trade...high...so discretion is advised. Sometimes, though, my curiosity would simply overwhelm me and I would release 1000 Lire (about 80¢) just to be able to speculate. Since bilingual coin dealers are rare in Italy (and the rest of Europe, too), I couldn't ask too many questions. Example, in copper: Centesimi/15/Pietanza//Croce Rossa/Americana. What's the story of that one? The American connection is certainly interesting. Vending machine tokens, most very modern, are abundant. Coffee, pinball machines, and even tokens good for hot water in campgrounds appeared in my finds. A Dunes (Las Vegas) gaming token put in an unexpected appearance. Finally, a real 1000 Lire goodie which I didn't have any trouble recognizing: Ferro Carril Urbano de Santiago (Chile)//Segunda Clase (Smith 680G)...this was worth pretty near all of the \$20.00 I spent at the shop from where it came. While in Italy I would take long walks in search of places to buy telephone tokens. There are some problems in obtaining these from bars and other businesses: the cashier can never understand why the crazy tourist needs TEN tokens when she has other customers who make only one telephone call at a time. In view of this bad attitude, I had no choice but to resort to the widespread vending machines, which after the insertion of a 100 lire (8¢ U.S.) piece and the turning of a prominent knob may and may not deliver a token. In this inefficient manner I accumulated only 41 tokens during the trip, all dated between May, 1970 and May, 1979 (inclusive). The date distribution within this span was surprisingly even; there was no particular bunching in any one year. The October 13, 1981 issue of World Coin News contains an article by Daniel K. E. Ching giving details of the theft of three tons (!) of these tokens from the factory where they were struck; more importantly, Mr. Ching reveals that a plan is afoot to replace the tokens nationwide with magnetic credit cards. The tokens will be sorely missed. As a final note to Italy: all of the strange tokens and mini-checks which had been in use in recent years because of lack of 100 and 200 lire coins have disappeared, to be found only in coin stores, which still have large quantities of the minichecks to sell to the unwary tourist. The Italian government finally got enough low-denomination coins into circulation to drive everything else out. We continued on to Greece, where I visited lots of coin stores (in Athens) and came up with nothing better than an American-style vending machine token....but all in Greek. This jewel set the American Tourist back about \$1.50. Egypt was little better. Language and cultural barriers make it difficult to get around without a competent guide, so I didn't get outside the sightseeing circuit. I was, however, interested to visit the Casino at the Nile Hilton in Cairo. I found that the only slot machine token in use there was about the size of a nickel, struck in brass, and described: ARISTOCRAT/916//ARISTOCRAT/916. I, of course, asked for a specimen, and found that only U. S. currency was acceptable to purchase tokens and chips, and I had none. Oh well. Incidentally, the token is used in the quarter machines. Our final stop on the tour was Vienna, a most luxurious city in every way. While visiting the many dealers in town, I found that I wasn't having any success in locating tokens...no one seemed to understand me when I asked for them. Finally, I had the luck to be referred to English-speaking numismatist Gerhard Herinek, who is probably the senior professional numismatist of Vienna. He informed me that Europeans just don't collect tokens; they understand that the tourist is asking for tokens (tokens-jetons-fichas-etc.) but are unable to comprehend why anyone would want such a thing, and are even less likely to carry them in stock. I then saw that my relatively poor showing in token acquisitions had been due more to cultural difference than language comprehension. No regrets, though....I had a great numismatic experience.